



Press Release

Maryland Transit Administration

6 St. Paul Street • Baltimore, MD 21202-1614 • 410-767-3936 • Fax 410-333-0893 • www.mtamaryland.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS: Jawauna Greene Cheron Victoria Wicker
Office: (410) 767-3936 Office: 410-767-3936
Cellular: 443-392-2983 Cellular: 443-386-8605

Increased transit benefit nearly doubled for area commuters

SmartBenefits and Commuter Choice Maryland customers enjoy more savings

BALTIMORE, MD (March 11, 2009) – Participants in the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) SmartBenefits Program and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Commuter Choice Maryland program will gain an additional \$110 each month on March 1, due to the recently-enacted economic stimulus funding that raises the tax-free transit benefit for employees from \$120 a month to \$230 a month.

WMATA and MTA are pleased to announce that area employers are now able to offer their employees up to \$230 a month, or \$2,760 a year in tax-free public transportation benefits affording employees the opportunity to ride transit for less than full fare, and employers who contribute to employees' monthly commuting costs federal and state tax deductions, state tax credits, and savings on payroll taxes.

SmartBenefits and Commuter Choice Maryland are incentive programs designed primarily to encourage area employees who drive to work to switch to transit or vanpools.

In Maryland a commuter tax credit program, which began in 1999, is an added incentive from the State of Maryland to encourage employers to get involved with setting up commute alternative programs for their employees. Maryland's Commuter Tax Credit Program encourages Maryland companies to set up workplace commuter options programs that help to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and conserve energy.

- More-

MTA Commuter Choice

Page Two

February 25, 2009

For information on Commuter Choice and MTA service, please visit the MTA website at www.mtmaryland.com. Customers can also call the MTA Customer Call Center Monday through Friday from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M. at 410-539-5000 or 866-RIDE-MTA (743-3682). TTY (410) 539-3497 may also request timetables by calling the Transit Information Center at 410-539-5000 or 866-RIDE-MTA. To sign-up to receive email about service modifications and delays, go to www.mtmaryland.com and click "Email Notification."

###